

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Central Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

CHURCH AT ROCKFORD,

COOSA COUNTY, ALABAMA,

INCLUDING THE FIRST SABBATH IN OCTOBER, 1875.

OFFICERS :

I. W. SUTTLE, MODERATOR,.....*Wetumpka, Ala.*
GEO. E. BREWER, CLERK,.....*Tallassee, Ala.*

Atlanta, Georgia :

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1875.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Hear Letters from Churches.
2. Elect Moderator and Clerk.
3. Invite ministering brethren to seats.
4. Call for petitions from Churches desiring to unite.
5. Appoint Committees to report during session.
 - to arrange preaching.
 - on Missions.
 - on Finance and Auditing.
 - on Documents and Requests.
 - on Nominations.
 - on Correspondents.
 - on Sabbath Schools.
6. Call for correspondence.
7. Have Rules of Decorum read.
8. Call Roll and erase absentees.
9. Hear Treasurer's Report and refer.
10. Elect Treasurer.
11. Hear Circular Letter.
12. Return correspondence.
13. Hear Miscellaneous Resolutions.
14. Hear Reports from Committees.
15. Give instructions about Appropriations.
16. Make arrangements for Printing Minutes.
17. Correct Minutes and adjourn.

NAMES AND POST-OFFICES OF MINISTERS.

ORDAINED.

B. Skipper.....	Rockford, Coosa county, Alabama.
George E. Brewer.....	Tallassee, Alabama.
H. L. Harlan	Pinckneyville, Tallapoosa county, Ala.
J. H. Colley.....	Equality, Coosa county, Alabama.
J. R. Steely	Marble Valley, Coosa county, Alabama.
Hardy Jones.....	Rockford, Coosa county, Alabama.
Robert Stewart	Wetumpka, Alabama.
A. G. Rains.....	Sikes' Mills, Elmore county, Alabama.
Posey Olive.....	Rockford, Coosa county, Ala..
John C. White.....	Kowaliga, Ala.
John W. Fulmer.....	Hanover, Coosa county, Ala.
J. H. Thompson.....	Good Hope, Elmore county, Ala.
L. H. Hasty.....	Marble Valley, Ala.
S. W. Melton.....	Weogufka, Ala.
H. C. Taul.....	Wetumpka, Ala.
J. L. Thompson.....	Equality, Ala.
J. Nelson.	Müllerville, Ala.

LICENTIATES.

C. Gregory.....	Wetumpka, Alabama.
J. M. Johnson.....	Rockford, Alabama.
C. Smith.....	Equality, Alabama.
E. Conger.....	Hackneyville, Alabama.
J. T. Nelson.....	Weogufka, Alabama.
T. J. Harrington.....	Good Hope, Alabama.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by a majority of the members of the body, and shall hold their offices until another election.

2. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside in the deliberations of the Association, and keep order, by enforcing the rules of this Decorum, and he shall not be allowed to vote, except in cases of a tie, and then shall give the casting vote.

3. It shall be the duty of the Association, first, to provide for the general union of the churches, and to devise ways and means for the spread of the Gospel, and the promotion of our Redeemer's kingdom upon earth; second, to maintain correspondence with sister associations, and thus preserve a chain of communication among the churches; third, to give advice to the churches in cases of difficulty; fourth, to invite visiting ministers of our faith and order to seats with us, to aid in our deliberations.

4. At each annual session there shall be appointed, by the Association, an executive committee, consisting of —, to whom shall be referred all matters touching the spread of the Gospel in our bounds, and report thereon at the next succeeding session of the Association.

5. There shall be appointed, as in the last preceding article, a committee of finance, to whom all funds sent up by the churches to the Association shall be paid; whose duty it shall be to report thereon during the session.

6. No motion shall be entertained by the Association until it shall be seconded; it shall then be taken up, opened for debate, and finally decided, unless withdrawn by the mover.

7. Every query sent up to this Association by any in the Union shall be read and put to vote by the Moderator, whether it shall be debated; and if there be a majority in favor, it shall be taken up and investigated; but if not it shall be withdrawn; Provided always, that those be first considered which may affect the union of the churches.

8. Every member who speaks shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator; he shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject.

9. No member shall speak more than three times upon the same subject, unless by leave of the Association.

10. There shall be no talking, whispering, or moving about, during the time of any public discussion, nor any reflection cast upon the speaker.

11. Any delegate wishing to leave the Association before its adjournment, shall be required to make the cause known, and obtain leave of absence by vote of the body; and if any delegate shall absent himself without leave, he shall be considered guilty of disorder, and shall be erased from the list of delegates.

12. A member violating any of these rules shall be reproved by the Moderator.

13. This decorum shall be read at each annual session of the Association, immediately after its organization.

14. This decorum may, at any regular session, be altered or amended, a majority of the body concurring therein.

MINUTES.

ROCKFORD, COOSA, County, Ala., October 2, 1875.

The Central Baptist Association met with the church at Rockford, Coosa, County, Ala., in its Thirty-first Annual Session, on the 2nd day of October, A. D. 1875.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder R. M. Perry, of the Coosa River Association, at 11 o'clock A. M., from Amos vi: 1.

After a recess of one hour, the body was called to order by the Moderator, Bro. I. W. Suttle. Prayer by Bro. D. Horn.

By request, Brethren R. M. Perry and H. C. Taul, read the letters from the churches, from which it appeared that the following Brethren were the accredited messengers.

FIRST DISTRICT.

(Ordained Ministers, SMALL CAPS; Licentiates, *Italics*.)

Shiloh—S. B. Ray, W. S. Justice and J. F. Edwards.

Mount Zion—J. N. Fincher.

Friendship—Not represented.

Town Creek—J. Taylor and J. T. P. Christian.

Elkahatchie—F. M. Maxwell.

Providence, Tal—*E. Conger*, W. A. Harlan and J. B. Brown.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Bethesda—J. D. Letcher, D. M. Harris and D. S. Martin.

Harmony—J. H. COLLEY, S. Hickman and J. F. Landl.

Liberty, East—*G. W. Gregory*, W. Tucker and T. B. Pruett.

Liberty, West—J. L. THOMPSON and John A. Robinson.

New Hope—M. Upshaw, B. A. Vickers and W. J. Burson.

County Line—B. F. Howle and I. Burson.

Refuge—C. E. Thompson.

Bethlehem—D. James

Antioch No. 2—*Jno. T. Alexander* and Jno. Jackson.

Good Hope—Wm. G. Wood and *F. J. Harrington*.

Tallassee—GEO. E. BREWER, J. B. Walls and B. F. Barnes.

Union—F. S. Thomas and B. C. Haynie.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Concord—A. G. RAINS, J. Stephens and S. Jackson.

Antioch—*James Johnson*, E. J. Wommack and D. Wilbanks.

Wetumpka—I. W. Suttle and H. C. TAUL.

Providence, Coosa—T. W. Clark, D. A. Hardin and L. G. Kilgore.

Olive Branch—G. P. OLIVE, W. J. Cowart and E. M. Devaughn.

Lebanon—H. Gilmer, P. C. Edwards and T. P. Moore.

Sardis—A. Terrell and A. J. Terrell.

Hatchett Creek—W. J. Barrett, J. H. Vance and W. C. Blalock.

Wayside—James M. McCord, W. P. Ward and F. M. Allen.

Shady Grove—T. A. Kellèy and W. W. Maddox.

Enon—W. T. Lary and R. Barefield.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Rockford—J. S. Bentley, J. A. Welch and John L. Watts.
 Poplar Springs—D. J. Thompson, J. A. Logan, Thomas Price and J. M. Connaway.

Mt. Olive—J. W. FULMER, W. C. Brown and R. Colley.

Wecogufka—J. T. Nelson.

Union Springs—J. R. STEELY, O. P. Looney and J. W. Cooper.

Salem—H. JONES, A. J. Brown and J. H. Carroll.

Holly Springs—A. M. White and Thomas White.

Macedonia—W. B. J. Stone and W. J. Murphy.

Mt. Gilead—W. J. Stanley.

Brother W. Wilkes, of the Coosa River Association, was appointed to preach in the afternoon.

Under a suspension of the order of business, by motion of brother Colley, petitionary letters were called for, when Enon Church, Elmore county, represented by brethren Lary and Barefield, was received upon her application, and the hand of fellowship extended by the Moderator.

The Association then proceeded to the election of a Moderator and Clerk, Elders S. Henderson and R. M. Perry acting as tellers. The election resulted in the choice of brother I. W. Suttle, Moderator, and George E. Brewer, Clerk.

An invitation was given to visiting ministers to seats in the body.

The following Committees were then appointed :

To arrange Preaching—J. Stephens, J. T. Nelson and the delegates of Rockford Church.

On Missions—H. C. Taul, A. G. Rains and W. C. Brown.

On Finance—D. J. Thompson, Henry Gilmore and W. A. Harlan.

On Documents and Requests—J. R. Steely, Wm. J. Murphy and W. P. Ward.

On Nominations—S. B. Ray, F. M. Allen and J. F. Edward.

Correspondence—J. H. Colley, J. L. Thompson and James Johnson.

Sabbath-Schools—J. S. Bentley, J. M. McCord and J. F. Edwards.

Periodicals—J. W. Fulmer, J. H. Colley and E. Conger.

Deceased Ministers—A. G. Rains, G. P. Olive and George E. Brewer.

On motion of brother Taul, a committee of three was appointed to report upon the Centennial movement, at 10 A. M. Monday. The committee consisted of brethren H. C. Taul, A. G. Rains and J. W. Fulmer.

The Committee to Arrange Preaching, through brother Stephens, reported the following :

Saturday night, at Johnson's School House, Elders Colley and Rains; at brother D. F. Jack's, Elders Horn and Johnson; at meeting house, Elders Taul and James L. Thompson.

Sunday—Prayer meeting at 9 A. M.; Elder W. Wilkes to preach at 11 A. M.; Elder S. Henderson at 1½ P. M.; Elders Brewer and Rains at night; brother E. Conger at Johnson's school house at night.

The body then adjourned to meet at 9 A. M. Monday. Prayer by brother Henderson.

SUNDAY, October 3, 1875.

The exercises of this day were conducted according to the report of the Arranging Committee. Elder Wilkes preach from 1st Peter, i: 10, 11; Elder Henderson from Isaiah, lxiii: 11; Elder Brewer from Luke i: 31, 33. After the 11 o'clock sermon a collection was taken up, amounting to \$28 80; 50 cents for brother James Johnson.

MONDAY, October 4, 1875.

The body met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. R. Steeley.

Upon the call for Correspondence, brother B. B. Reems and Elder D. Horn were received from the Tallapoosa River Association. Elders S. Henderson,

D. D., W. Wilkes and R. M. Perry, and brother C. R. Cross, from the Coosa River Association, presented themselves and were cordially received.

The reading of the Rules of Decorum was dispensed with, by motion of bro. Taul.

The roll of members was called and corrected.

The funds for missionary purposes on subscription of last year was, on motion of bro. Brewer, ordered paid to the Finance Committee.

The Report of the Treasurer was read, and referred to the Finance Committee.

Bro. John A. Robinson was re-elected Treasurer, by acclamation.

The \$2.45 for Sunday School purposes, in the hands of the Treasurer, was ordered paid to bro. J. J. D. Renfro, of the S. S. Board of Alabama.

Correspondence was returned as follows :

To the Liberty Association — To convene with Lebanon Church, Thursday before the fourth Sabbath in September, 1876, Elders J. H. Cooley and Geo. E. Brewer, and bro. J. D. Letcher.

Tallapoosa River Association — Brethren *Jas. Johnson*, W. P. Ward, D. M. Harris, J. L. THOMPSON, W. C. Brown, D. S. Martin, S. B. Ray, *E. Conger*, J. T. P. Christian, B. H. Vickers, J. S. Bentley, D. L. McAllister, J. D. Letcher, and GEO. E. BREWER.

Coosa River Association — To meet with Mt. Zion Church, Syllacogga, Friday before third Sunday in September, 1876, J. S. Bentley, J. R. STEELY, J. L. THOMPSON, D. J. Thompson, W. C. Brown, F. R. Simms, *J. Z. Nelson*, J. M. McCord, W. J. Murphy, F. M. Allen, H. C. TAUL, M. Upshaw J. B. Walls, O. P. Looney, A. G. RAINS, G. E. BREWER, W. B. J. Stone, S. B. Ray, J. M. Conway, A. M. White, J. F. Edwards, J. Stephens, *E. Conger*, I. W. Suttle.

Tuskegee Association—GEO. E. BREWER, G. P. OLIVE, and D. James.

State Convention—Montgomery, Thursday before the third Sunday in July, H. C. TAUL, I. W. Suttle, A. G. RAINS, R. Barefield, W. T. Lary, W. P. Ward, J. R. STEELY, J. M. McCord, J. D. Letcher, J. H. COLLEY, G. W. Walker, *Jas. Johnson*, and J. L. THOMPSON.

The special order being to hear the report of the Centennial Committee, bro. Taul made the following, which was adopted :

Report of Centennial Committee.

WHEREAS, we are entering upon the hundredth year of our national existence ; and whereas, this anniversary of civil liberty will be celebrated by the nation July 4th, 1876 ;

Resolved, 1. That we hail with joy the approaching day that will make the hundredth year of God's goodness to us in giving us that degree of civil liberty that it has been our privilege to enjoy.

Resolved, 2. That, while we would enter into this patriotic glee that thrill the hearts of the great mass of our people, and join heart and hand in commemorating the establishment of civil liberty on this continent by our noble ancestry, yet we feel called upon in more earnest tones to celebrate those higher and nobler achievements which have bequeathed to us perfect *Religious Liberty*.

Resolved, 3. That as religious liberty was, from the first, the trophy of the Baptists, and as our fathers, by their earnest devotion to the true principles of the gospel, and by their labors and sufferings, have, under God, been the instruments in establishing soul liberty in this commonwealth, as it is enjoyed by no other people in the world, that their glorious deeds should be commemorated in some substantial manner in the coming Centennial year.

Resolved, 4. That as our educational interests stand so closely connected with the interests of our Zion, we would turn the energies of all our brethren to establishing permanent means of educating our young men in a thorough manner, and on as easy terms as possible.

Resolved, 5. That we heartily endorse the proposition of our brethren to raise

an endowment for Howard College, and as an Association we pledge ourselves to do all we can for that purpose.

Resolved, 6. That according to the plan suggested by the Central Centennial Committee, we adopt as our motto. "one dollar from every Baptist, and one dollar from every man, woman and child under our influence," and then we will solicit all to give as the Lord has prospered them.

Resolved, 7. That we recommend the appointing of a committee consisting of a working quorum of five, located at Wetumpka, and one member from each church in our bounds, to arrange for the canvassing of the churches for this purpose.

Resolved, 8. That said Committee be empowered, and are hereby directed to arrange for, and call a general Baptist gathering on the fourth of July next, to observe that day in its religious aspects.

Resolved, 9. That said committee invite brethren to deliver addresses on that day on the subject of Religious Liberty and the Baptist.

H. C. TAUL, Chairman.

Pending the motion made by Bro. Steely, to adopt, the subject was ably discussed by Brethren Taul, Henderson and Wilkes.

Elder R. M. Perry, was appointed to preach at 10½ A. M., and Elder W. Wilkes, at 1½ P. M.

The following is the committee appointed under the Centennial Resolution: Working Quorum—Brethren J. W. Suttle, H. C. Taul, J. Bates, George F. Sedberry and A. G. Due.

Churches—J. F. Edwards, J. N. Fincher, J. T. P. Christian, F. M. Maxwell, W. H. Harlan, J. D. Letcher, J. H. Colly, J. L. Thompson, M. Upshaw, B. T. Howle, C. E. Thompson, D. James, W. L. Williams, W. G. Wood, Geo. E. Brewer, F. S. Thomas, A. G. Rains, E. J. Wommack, T. W. Clark, C. P. Olive, H. Gilmore, A. Terrell, W. J. Barrett, J. M. McCord, W. W. Maddox, W. T. Lary, J. S. Bently, D. J. Thompson, W. C. Brown, J. T. Nelson, J. R. Steely, H. Jones, A. M. White, W. B. J. Stone and W. J. Stanley.

The body then adjourned until 1½ P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The body met pursuant to adjournment.

The circular letter was then read and adopted as follows, viz:

Circular Letter.

The Central Association to the churches and associations with which she corresponds, sendeth christian salutation:

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you, that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints, Jude, iii. We deem the present as a time in which the children of God need exhortation to watch and pray, and to earnestly contend for the faith of the saints, lest they be tempted. The clouds which span over the religious world portend tribulation. The spirit of fashionable worship, and worldly-mindedness, threatens to storm the citadel of the true worshipers—those who would worship God in spirit and in truth—and if possible, pervert the ways of righteousness. This is not manifest at all times by open warfare upon the truth, but pulpits and publications by their sweetened tones are powerful means of fascinating and bewildering the children of God, and drawing them from their steadfastness in the faith and practice of the Gospel. Hence, it becomes those who have renounced the world, the flesh, and the devil, in sincerity, to fight earnestly and prayerfully the good fight of faith, trusting in God alone for the promised victory in his name.

"If it was needful for Jude to exhort his beloved brethren to contend earnestly for the faith which was once delivered to the saints, in days of gospel purity, it is more needful for us to exhort one another to the exercise of the same duty

in the days of vast effort to pervert the truth. "Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the way, and see, and ask for the old paths where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls," Jer. vi: 16.

To successfully contend for *the faith*, we must exemplify it by walking in the old paths. "In all the ways which the Lord hath commanded us, avoiding those who would pervert the Gospel of Christ," into another Gospel, Gal. vii: 7, and not "striving for vain glory," but in loveliness of mind exhibit the mind of Christ. Phil. ii: 3 to 5.

A mere mental assent, and orthodox theological belief, that can be acquired like the studies of law or medicine, is not all of the faith which we are to contend for, but for that faith which exhibits the Spirit of God in the heart, with its fruits of righteousness; that faith which purifies the heart, and is the gift of God, the fruit of the Spirit of God, and the power of God unto salvation, and anticipates the return of the Saviour to raise the redeemed of the Lord, to return to Zion with songs and everlasting joy. And wherever that faith exists in the heart, it produces the works of righteousness, and a desire to conform to the revealed will of God.

J. S. BENTLEY.

Hatchett Creek Church, by request, was detached from the third and attached to the fourth district.

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools was adopted, as follows:

Report on Sunday Schools.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools having nothing of much interest to report from the churches on this subject, and former reports seeming to have had such little effect, the committee can but reiterate the last report on the subject.

JNO. S. BENTLEY, Chairman.

The following report of the Committee on Nominations was read and concurred in, viz:

Report on Nominations.

To preach the Introductory Sermon—Elder A. G. Rains, alternate, Elder J. W. Fulmer.

Executive Committee—Brethren J. S. Bentley, J. F. Edwards, J. D. Letcher, H. Gilmer, and F. M. Maxwell.

To write Circular Letter—Brother W. C. Brown.

S. B. RAY, Chairman.

The following on Deceased Ministers was read and adopted, viz.:

Deceased Ministers.

We, your Committee, beg leave to report that, since your last session, our Heavenly Father, in the exercise of His sovereign Providence, has visited us in removing his servant, Elder James M. Willis, who, though not actively engaged for some years past in the work of the ministry, yet in private conversation confessed his dereliction, and proposed soon to consecrate soul and body to the glorious work. But God, from some cause, determined otherwise, and as He orders all things for His own glory, and causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, and who are called according to His purpose, let us, therefore, brethren, humbly submit to His dealings, and pray God that He would send more laborers into His vineyard. Respectfully submitted,

A. J. RAINS, Chairman.

Bro. Fulmer, from the Committee on Periodicals, submitted the following, which was adopted, viz.:

Periodicals.

We, your Committee on Periodicals, submit the following: That there are many Baptist papers published in the South, but we would earnestly solicit and impress it upon the minds of our brethren to patronize the "Alabama Baptist" as our State organ, that we may be more united, as a common brotherhood, in love, truth, and doctrine, as set forth in its columns.

We recommend the "Baptist," published by Elder J. R. Graves, at Memphis, Tenn., as a denominational paper fearless and outspoken, ever confronting error, and should be read by all Baptists, East, West, North, and South.

We also recommend the "Christian Index and Southwestern Baptist," Atlanta, Ga., as an excellent paper, and worthy of the patronage of Alabama Baptists. Its columns are filled with Georgia, Alabama and Florida news that is cheering to the hearts of Christians.

We also commend "Kind Words" as a child's and Sabbath School paper, edited by Brother Boykin, at Macon, Ga.

The Committee on Missions made their report, which was adopted as follows, viz:

Report on Missions.

The spirit of missions is the spirit of the gospel. Throughout the whole of the New Testament, by precept and example, the duty to preach the gospel to every creature is inculcated with great earnestness. We therefore deem it the duty of all Christians to contribute, according as the Lord has prospered them, to the support of missions, foreign and domestic.

We greatly fear that our churches do not come up to their duty in this matter, and would urge our brethren to bestir themselves in regard to the great missionary enterprises of the day. In the providence of God the whole world seems ready for the truth as it is in Christ. At home and abroad, where the gospel is proclaimed, it is meeting with unprecedented success, and thousands are pressing into the kingdom of our Lord.

These things should encourage us to a lively discharge of our duty in the cause of our blessed Master.

The work within our bounds, we think, should be prosecuted with more zeal, until the destitution now prevailing shall be no more. The Executive Committee is doing a good work. Brethren, let us hold up their hands so long as there is a destitute church or neighborhood in all our bounds. We insist upon our ministers bringing the interests of foreign and domestic mission before their churches, and asking contributions in the name of our Lord, who has done so much for us.

H. C. TAUL, Chairman.

The Committee on Documents and Requests read the following report, which was adopted, viz:

Report on Documents and Requests.

Your Committee beg leave to report that nothing demands our attention but the request of the Church at Liberty, East, for a letter of dismission, that she may unite with the "Tallapoosa River Association." We recommend that the letter be granted. Respectfully submitted,

J. R. STEELY, Chairman.

The report of the Committee on Correspondence read and adopted.

Report on Correspondence.

We, your Committee, beg leave to report that we regret having received correspondents from only two sister Associations, to-wit: "Coosa River" and "Tallapoosa River." We, however, feel thankful to the brethren from these two for

their kindly visit and sweet, encouraging and earnest words, and their heart-stirring sermons among us.

J. H. COLLEY, Chairman.

The report of the Executive Committee was now read and adopted; and, in connection therewith, the reports on work done, by brethren Colley, Thompson and Johnson, acting missionaries under them. A condensed statement of their work was ordered to be appended by the Clerk to the report.

Report of Executive Committee.

To the Moderator and Brethren :

Your Executive Committee deem it unnecessary to make a very lengthy report, as its action is pretty generally known.

In order to bring the matter of Domestic Missions as much as possible to the personal attention of our brethren, and receive aid and counsel in their deliberations on the subject, the Committee held a meeting in connection with Concord Church, and ministers and members from other churches, on the Saturday before the fifth Sabbath in January, 1875. Owing to the inclemency of the weather, and the attendance of only a portion of the Committee, the meeting was adjourned to meet with Mount Olive Church on the fifth Sabbath in May, at which time your Committee, with the advice of a goodly number of brethren from different churches, requested Elder J. H. Colley, who seemed stirred within by the Spirit to do the work of an Evangelist, to devote all the time he could from thence to this meeting in visiting the churches, stirring up their pure minds, and especially to visit localities destitute of Baptist preaching, trusting to the liberality of the brethren and churches to sustain him, which service, your committee are happy to report, he has done faithfully and generally acceptably. At the same time our young brethren, James Thompson and James M. Johnson, were requested to supply the places of pastors where there were none, and preach as often as they could in destitutions, which services they have performed to a greater extent, and with greater acceptance, than they thought they could do. For a more particular account of the services of these brethren, the Association is asked to refer to their respective reports.

Your Committee feel encouraged to report that in some localities there is a growing interest in the matter of Domestic Missions, and they know of no better suggestion to make, for the future conduct of this matter, than that this Association, at this meeting, take steps to sustain Bro. Colley as Evangelist, in the Central Association, for all or as much of his time as he can devote to that work for the ensuing year, because your committee think that he possesses the spirit, and has the zeal which qualifies him for this kind of service; and they do not think that we should stop short of sustaining at least one traveling preacher in our bounds.

J. S. BENTLEY, Chairman.

Condensed statement of work of missionaries employed :

Brother Colley was engaged 66 days, preached 69 sermons, delivered 24 exhortations, baptized 20, received by letter 7, traveled 423 miles, visited all the churches except two, assisted in the ordination of one minister and one deacon, and received \$17.05.

Brother Thompson preached 80 sermons, traveled 512 miles, made 69 religious visits; in connection with his labors there were received, by baptism 26, by letter 3, restoration 2. Received as compensation \$63.50.

Brother Johnson held two meetings of days, resulting in the baptism of 15.

In connection with the report a subscription was taken up, amounting to \$46 25, to be used in support of brother Colley. The subscription and cash were both turned over to brother Bentley.

Brother Letcher moved the appointment of one in each Church as a special committee to visit the members of his Church and others and solicit, by cash and subscription, funds to maintain a missionary in the field; and that the first named delegate in the Minutes be such agent. Adopted.

The Finance Committee made their report as follows, which was adopted, viz :

Report of Finance Committee.

Your Committee have examined the Treasurer's report and find it correct and neatly arranged.

We have received at this session,

For Minutes.....	\$ 74 45
For brother Stewart.....	4 50
For brother Colley	30 00
For brother Thompson, subscription	50 50
For brother Johnson	75
For Missionary in our bounds.....	12 90
Sabbath collection.....	28 30
On subscription of 1874.....	86 40
Total.....	<u>\$287 80</u>

The funds have been paid into the hands of the Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted.

D. G. THOMPSON, Chairman.

Treasurer's Report for 1875.

John A. Robinson, Treasurer Central Association:

Dr.

To Minute Fund.....	\$72 70
Cash for brother Stewart.....	16 75
Cash for brother Taul.....	1 50
Cash for brother Rains.....	12 35
Cash for brother Brewer	9 00
Voluntary Missions, 1874.....	15 25
Missions, 1875.	2 00
For Sunday School urposes.....	2 45
For Domestic Missions, 1874.....	27 28
For African Missions	1 00
Cash on subscription for Domestic Missions for 1875.....	6 00
Total	<u>\$166 28</u>

Cr.

By amount paid Clerk for Minutes.....	\$ 72 70
By amount paid brother Stewart.....	16 75
By amount paid brother Brewer.....	9 00
By amount paid brother Taul	1 50
By amount paid brother Rains.....	12 35
By amount paid brethren Brewer, Rains, Taul and Fulmer for Domestic Missions for 1874.....	42 58
African Missions.....	1 00
By amount paid brother Colley for missionary work, 1875.....	8 00
Total.....	<u>\$163 83</u>
Balance on hand	<u>\$ 2 45</u>
Respectfully submitted.	

JOHN A. ROBINSON, Treasurer.

A letter was read from brother Robert Stewart and a collection taken up in his behalf, amounting to \$9 50. Paid over to Treasurer, with instruction to be sent to brother Stewart by hands of brother Alexander.

The following resolution was offered by brother Taul and adopted, viz :

Resolved, That the Treasurer be instructed to pay brother Johnson the sum of \$20 00 out of the funds for missions; that he pay \$80 00 in addition to the \$30 00 sent to brother Colley, to him; that the subscriptions in behalf of brother Thompson be turned over to him, and the remainder of the mission fund be retained, to be used for future work.

It was ordered that the clerk be paid \$20.00 out of the Minute Fund for his services, and the rest of the fund be used in printing and distributing the Minutes, after paying the balance due the printer for last year.

The Minutes for the Fourth District and Shiloh Church were ordered left at bro. Bentley's office, Rockford, Ala.; the remainder of the First District at Alexander City, and for the other Districts at Wetumpka, A. G. Due & Co.'s house.

Brother Rains offered the following resolution, which was heartily adopted :

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be tendered to this church, and the friends in the vicinity for their kind hospitality during the present session.

The Minutes were then read and adopted.

The body was now adjourned, to meet with Providence Church, Tallapoosa county, Ala., Saturday before the first Sabbath in October, 1876.

The meeting had been harmonious and pleasant throughout.

While singing hymn 1148 the parting hand was taken in true brotherly affection.

Closed with prayer, led by bro. R. M. Perry.

I W. SUTTLE, MODERATOR, Wetumpka, Ala.

GEO. E. BREWER, CLERK, Tallassee, Ala.

DISTRICT MEETINGS FOR 1876.

First District—Shiloh, Friday before fourth Sabbath in July.

Second District—Antioch No. 2, Friday before fourth Sabbath in August.

Third District—Lebanon, Friday before second Sabbath in July.

Fourth District—Macedonia, Friday before fifth Sabbath in July.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be composed of members regularly chosen by the churches in our Union; but in making appointments or assigning duties, it shall be constitutional for the Association to appoint to any such duties any Ordained Minister, though such Minister be not a delegate to this body.

ART. 2. The members so chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, together with the state of their churches since their last representation.

ART. 3. The members so chosen and convened shall be called the "CENTRAL ASSOCIATION."

ART. 4. This Association shall sit as an advisory council, and shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor infringe on the internal rights of the churches; but may withdraw from any church not orthodox in principle according to the Scriptures, and who shall fail to represent at an Association, and shall refuse to account for such failure, at the next regular session.

ART. 5. Any church desiring admission into this Union shall petition by letter and messengers, and if found orthodox, shall be received by the Association by the Moderator giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 6. Any church having a public gift, before proceeding to license the same, should call the gifts of two or more sister churches, or experienced members, to unite with the church in conference to examine into the nature of the gift, and upon due approval, license to be granted, and reported to the next Association.

ART. 7. Every church in our Union, whose membership may be one hundred or under, shall be entitled to three delegates; and for every thirty-three over one hundred they shall be entitled to one additional delegate.

ART. 8. No query shall be taken into consideration in this Association, except in cases of serious difficulty, which cannot be settled by the church, nor messengers from other churches.

ART. 9. This Association may correspond with any Baptist benevolent institution it shall deem expedient.

ART. 10. This Association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches; and all moneys, thus contributed, shall be transmitted from the churches, by their messengers, and paid over to the committee on finance, (the committee shall be annually appointed,) whose duty it shall be to receive in charge the Association fund, and dispose of the same agreeably to order, and make, at every session, a fair and circumstantial report of their proceedings.

ART. 11. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator and Clerk, to be elected from her own body.

ART. 12. Difference of opinion, as to benevolent institutions of the day, shall never be made a question of fellowship in this Association.

ART. 13. Amendments or alterations to this constitution may be made at any regular session—two-thirds of the members present concurring therein.

ARTICLES OF FAITH, WITH PROOF TEXTS.

ART. I. We believe in one true and living God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost—three in one. 1st John v, 7. Matt. iii, 15-17. John xiv, 16. Matt. xxviii, 19.

ART. II. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice. 2nd Timothy iii, 16-17. 2d Peter i, 19-20-21.

ART. III. We believe in the doctrine of original sin. That Adam disobeyed God, and that all mankind have inherited a sinful nature from Adam. Gen. iii, 1-7. Psalms LI, 5. Rom. v, 12. Eph. ii, 1.

ART. IV. We believe in man's inability to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by himself alone. Zach. iv, 6. John vi, 44. 1st Cor. xi, 14. Rom. viii, 7-8.

ART. V. We believe in the doctrine of election by grace, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth. Rom. xi, 4-7. 2d Thess. ii, 13. 1st Peter i, 2.

ART. VI. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ. Acts xiii, 39. Rom. iv, 11-22-23-24-25. Gala. ii, 16.

ART. VII. We believe in the preservation of saints. Psalms xxvii, 23-24-28. Micah vii, 8. John v, 24 and x, 28. Rom. viii, 35-39. 1st Peter i, 3-5.

ART. VIII. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are sacraments of Jesus Christ, of perpetual obligation, and that none but true believers are fit subjects of the sacraments. John i, 33. Matt. iii, 13-17. Matt. xxviii, 19-20. Acts i, 22, and ii, 41. Matt. xxvi, 6-30. 1st Cor. xi, 23-26.

ART. IX. We believe in one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, and immersion only is baptism. Eph. iv, 5. Rom. vi, 4-6. Col. ii, 12. Acts viii, 38-39. Mark i, 9.

ART. X. We believe that no one is qualified to preach, administer the sacraments of the Gospel, except he be called of God, as was Aaron, is set apart by, and is in good standing with the church of which he is a member, and come under the hands of a Presbytery. Mark iii, 14. Acts xiv, 23. 1st Tim. ii, 7, and v, 22. Heb. v, 4. John iv, 2. Acts viii, 38.

ART. XI. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the general judgment. John v, 28-29. Rev. xx, 12-13. Acts xxiv, 15.

ART. XII. We believe the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal. Matt. xxv, 46. Rev. vii, 15-16. Col. iii, 4. 1st Thess. iv, 17. 2d Thess. i, 7-9. Rev. xx, 10, 14, 15. Matt. xxv, 41, 43.

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	POST-OFFICE.	Conference Sabbath day before	INCREASE.			DECREASE.			CONTRIBUTIONS.				
					Baptized.	Letters.	Restored.	Watchcare.	Letters.	Excluded.	Dead.	Total	Minutes.	Missions.	
Shiloh.....	B Skipper.....	S B Ray.....	Nixbury, Ala.....	4th.....	1	4	1	4	4	3	1	32	\$ 2 00	\$.....	
Mount Zion.....	J L Thompson.....	Jas Walker.....	Bulger's Mills, Ala.....	2d.....	11	1	2	1	3	1	.....	32	1 50	20 50	
Town Creek.....	W H Harlan.....	G Gamble.....	Hackneyville, Ala.....	2d.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Elk hatchie.....	B Skipper.....	F M Maxwell.....	Kellyton, Ala.....	4th.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	.....	.....	17	1 50	.....	
Providence, Tal.....	W H Harlan.....	J W Harlan.....	Pineckneville, Ala.....	3d.....	5	1	3	.....	5	3	2	62	2 50	.....	
Bethesda.....	B Skipper.....	W H Bird.....	Equality, Ala.....	2d.....	4	.....	.....	.....	14	3	2	54	2 00	5 25	
Harmony.....	C White.....	W H Colley.....	Colton's Store, Ala.....	1st.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	23	1 00	.....	
Liberty East.....	D Horn.....	J P Tillery.....	Dadeville, Ala.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	3	1	56	2 00	30 00	
Liberty West.....	J L Thompson.....	W M Russell.....	Bulger's Mills, Ala.....	4th.....	8	1	1	.....	4	.....	.....	54	2 00	.....	
New Hope.....	H Colley.....	W J Burson.....	Bulger's Mills, Ala.....	4th.....	10	1	3	.....	1	.....	.....	56	2 00	.....	
County Line.....	J C White.....	T Howle.....	Kowadiga, Ala.....	4th.....	7	8	1	.....	4	4	.....	38	1 50	.....	
Refuge.....	J H Colley.....	F M Plannegan.....	Chaneyhatchie, Ala.....	3d.....	1	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	44	1 50	.....	
Bethlehem.....	J C White.....	D James.....	Tallasse, Ala.....	3d.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	1	1	57	2 00	2 00	
Antioch, No. 2.....	J H Colley.....	W L Williams.....	Wetumpka, Ala.....	4th.....	.....	.....	1	.....	4	.....	.....	1 50	2 00	6 00	
Good Hope.....	J C White.....	J H Osborne.....	Good Hope, Ala.....	2d.....	10	.....	5	.....	1	.....	5	70	1 50	.....	
Tallasse.....	G E Brewer.....	T G Sessions.....	Tallasse, Ala.....	3d.....	25	13	5	.....	1	13	4	155	5 00	16 50	
Union.....	J H Colley.....	S F Thomas.....	Central Institute, Ala.....	1st.....	4	.....	.....	.....	4	1	.....	31	1 50	6 05	
Concord.....	A G Rains.....	R S Penton.....	Nixburg, Ala.....	3d.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	1	.....	45	2 50	8 00	
Antioch.....	B Skipper.....	E J Womack.....	Wetumpka, Ala.....	1st.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	78	2 50	.....	
Wetumpka.....	H C Taul.....	G K Morris.....	Wetumpka, Ala.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	1	61	3 00	20 00	
Providence Coosa.....	M Johnson.....	J C Traywick.....	Traveler's Rest, Ala.....	4th.....	2	1	.....	.....	1	2	.....	51	2 00	3 55	
Olive Branch.....	G P O Ives.....	J J Grant.....	Rockford, Ala.....	3d.....	2	6	.....	.....	6	1	.....	51	1 50	.....	
Lebanon.....	A G Rains.....	A T Stanley.....	Buyckville, Ala.....	2d.....	.....	8	.....	.....	1	3	.....	46	2 50	7 00	
Serdis.....	W H Bailey.....	A J Tarrell.....	Traveler's Rest, Ala.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23	50	.....	
Hatchett Creek.....	S W Melton.....	R C Hardy.....	Weogufka, Ala.....	1st.....	1	7	.....	.....	2	.....	1	52	1 30	2 50	
Wayside.....	J W Fulmer.....	M B Arant.....	Wesley Mills, Ala.....	.....	2	5	.....	.....	2	.....	1	57	2 00	1 50	
Shady Grove.....	J M Johnson.....	T A Kelley.....	Rockford, Ala.....	2d.....	14	4	1	.....	1	.....	.....	51	1 50	.....	
Enon.....	H C Taul.....	W T Lary.....	Robtison Springs, Ala.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17	.....	.....	
Rockford.....	A G Rains.....	J A Welch.....	Rockford, Ala.....	3d.....	1	.....	.....	.....	2	1	1	64	3 00	12 00	
Poplar Spring.....	A G Rains.....	John A Logan.....	Hanover, Ala.....	1st.....	1	4	1	.....	26	6	.....	140	3 00	.....	
Mount Olive.....	A G Rains.....	W C Brown.....	Mount Olive, Ala.....	4th.....	8	1	1	.....	5	1	1	84	2 50	.....	
Weogufka.....	L H Rains.....	A J Callaway.....	Weogufka, Ala.....	4th.....	3	1	.....	.....	13	.....	1	51	2 00	.....	
Union in Springs.....	J R Stealy.....	J W Cooper.....	Marble Valley, Ala.....	3d.....	1	2	.....	.....	7	1	.....	93	1 50	.....	
Sal-m.....	H Jones.....	E N Little.....	Rockford, Ala.....	2d.....	.....	6	.....	.....	5	1	.....	52	1 50	.....	
Holly Springs.....	L Hasy.....	S Roberts n.....	Marble Valley, Ala.....	1st.....	15	12	2	.....	1	.....	1	51	1 50	.....	
Macedonia.....	J W Fulmer.....	W H Jones.....	Mount Olive, Ala.....	2d.....	1	2	.....	.....	2	.....	1	66	3 00	.....	
Mount Gilead.....	S W Melton.....	W J Baukenship.....	Weogufka, Ala.....	2d.....	3	2	1	.....	2	.....	2	61	2 00	.....	
					126	101	21	5	196	39	19	2043		\$140	65

* \$2 00 for Bro. Stewart. † \$2 50 for Bro. Stewart.

LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS,

WITH THEIR POST OFFICES.

Y. D. HARRINGTON,	Wetumpka,	Ala.
P. STOUT,	"	"
J. D. WILLIAMS,	"	"
B. T. SMITH,	Central Institute,	"
J. H. COLLEY,	Equality,	"
GEORGE E. BREWER,	Rockford,	"
E. T. AKIN,	Traveler's Rest,	"
M. MORRIS,	"	"
G. W. BEARDEN,	Rockford,	"
B. SKIPPER,	Nixburg,	"
A. G. RAINS,	Adam's Store,	"
T. J. RUSSELL,	Island Home,	"
J. R. STEELY,	Hanover.	"
H. JONES	"	"
JOSEPH HILL,	Socapatoy,	"
ISAIAH HOLMES,	Winterboro,	"
W. B. CONNEL,	"	"
E. G. FOSTER,	Chaneyhatchie,	"

LICENTIATES.

CHARLES GREGORY,	Wetumpka,	Ala.
MARTIN PARKER,	Rockford,	"
STERLING SPEAR,	"	"
W. F. SHUMATE,	Central Institute,	"

